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PROGRAM Morning Edition

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DATE

May 12, 1982

6:15 A.M.

CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT

Inman Comments on the Falkland Crisis

BOB EDWARDS: Yesterday the Deputy Director of the CIA, Admiral Bobby Inman, told a Senate subcommittee that Argentina may turn to the Soviet Union for weapons as a result of the Falklands conflict. Argentina's previous suppliers, the United States, Europe and Israel, have refused to sign new contracts since the invasion of the Falklands. And Inman said, "I think you will find the Soviets anxious to sell at a bargain price."

With news that Soviet reconnaissance planes have spotted part of the task force, we have a report on Argentine-Soviet relations from Chris Hedges in Buenos Aires.

CHRIS HEDGES: Since the invasion, one of the strongest defenders of the move to retake the Falklands outside of this country has been the Soviet Union. The Soviet news agency Tass

has issued a stream of reports that brands the British as colonial aggressors; and during Secretary of State Alexander Haig's negotiations portrayed the American diplomat as manipulating the situation in favor of Britain.

It is suspected by many observers here that the Argentines are receiving practical help from the Soviets during the crisis and can turn to the Soviets if they need to buy arms.

While this regime claims to be anti-communist and killed 20,000 of its own people in an avowed war on Marxism, Argentina sells most of its grain to the Soviets. And when this crisis began, there were 20 Soviet ships in the port loading grain and another 20 off the coast waiting to receive shipment.